

Serial No.: 10/079,961

Art Unit: 3621

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed January 27, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims 1-13, 15, 17-25, 29, 32-52, 54-56, and 58 are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's statement in the Office Action in which claims 1-13 and 29, 32-52, 54-56, and 58 have been indicated as allowable. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 15 and 17-25, which depend upon independent claim 16, "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims." Claim 24 has been written in independent form and includes the limitations of its former base claim 16. Claim 24 should therefore be allowable. Also, claims 15, 17-23, and 25 are not rewritten in independent form, but depend upon claim 24 which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, claims 15, 17-23, and 25 are also believed to be allowable, as presented. The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. If any outstanding issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned agent to resolve the issues to expedite prosecution.

Response to Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 16, 26-28, 30-31, 53, and 57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Checchio* (U.S. Patent 6,023,682), in view of *Sandberg-Diment* (U.S. Patent 5,826,245).

Claims 16, 26-28, 30-31, 53, and 57 are canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer, and therefore, the rejection to these claims are rendered moot. Applicants take this action merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate any of the canceled subject matter to the public.

Serial No.: 10/079,961
Art Unit: 3621

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


Charles W. Griggers
Reg. No. 47,283